

October 15, 2008

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

City of Arcata - Janes Creek Culvert Replacement/Fish Passage Project  
WDID No. 1B08140WNHU

Humboldt County

On September 23, 2008, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the City of Arcata – Public Works Department (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to replacing a culvert and realigning a section of Janes Creek to improve fish passage. The proposed project will remove a barrier to fish migration in Janes Creek which is known to provide spawning habitat for coastal cutthroat trout and habitat for other salmonids. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Janes Creek in the Eureka Plain Hydrologic Unit No. 110.00.

The City of Arcata is proposing to improve fish passage, flow capacity, and stream and riparian habitat near the confluence of Janes Creek and the north fork of Janes Creek. The proposed project involves abandoning an existing 60-inch diameter culvert under the railroad track and installing a new 96-inch diameter culvert in a realigned section of stream channel. The new section of stream channel will be excavated in an upland area on the south side of the existing culvert that will be abandoned. Excavated material will be temporarily stockpiled in an upland area adjacent to the railroad track. The banks of the excavated section of stream channel will be stabilized with fabric backed rock slope protection (RSP). Temporary sand bag coffer dams may be used to divert flows around work areas.

A new 96-inch diameter culvert will be placed in the realigned section of stream channel where the stream crosses under the railroad track. The new culvert will be set below the stream bottom elevation and the culvert will be partially filled with rock and gravel to provide a more natural stream bottom. RSP with concrete slurry injected into the void space will be placed around the inlet and outlet for erosion protection. A boulder weir will be installed across the realigned stream channel and downstream of the new culvert in order to maintain adequate water depth in the new culvert for fish migration. Additional project activities include installing two in-stream habitat structures, planting riparian vegetation, and placing RSP for bank stabilization.

Proposed culvert abandonment activities will permanently impact 1,025 square feet and 90 linear feet of stream channel. Proposed channel realignment activities will result in 1,085 square feet and 90 linear feet of new stream channel in an existing upland area. Dewatering activities will temporarily impact approximately 90 linear feet and 1,000 square feet of stream channel. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Noncompensatory mitigation includes revegetation and mulching of disturbed areas. Noncompensatory mitigation also includes the use of Best

Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control and for operation of heavy equipment in a stream channel.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Number 27, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement. The City of Arcata prepared a draft mitigated negative declaration for this project in order to comply with CEQA. The mitigated negative declaration is scheduled for adoption on October 17, 2008. The Regional Water Board has considered the draft environmental document and any proposed changes incorporated into the project or required as a condition of approval to avoid significant effects to the environment.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and design drawings. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.